Complete Summary

GUIDELINE TITLE

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists medical guidelines for clinical practice for the management of diabetes mellitus. Patient safety in diabetes care.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCE(S)

AACE Diabetes Mellitus Clinical Practice Guidelines Task Force. AACE diabetes mellitus guidelines. Patient safety in diabetes care. Endocr Pract 2007 May-Jun;13(Suppl 1):63-8. [34 references]

GUIDELINE STATUS

This is the current release of the guideline.

This guideline updates a previously published version: American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American College of Endocrinology. Medical guidelines for the management of diabetes mellitus: the AACE system of intensive diabetes self-management--2002 update. Endocr Pract 2002 Jan-Feb;8(Suppl 1):40-82.

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SCOPE

DISEASE/CONDITION(S)

Diabetes mellitus, including:

- Type 1 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetes
- Gestational diabetes

GUIDELINE CATEGORY

Diagnosis
Management
Risk Assessment
Screening
Treatment

CLINICAL SPECIALTY

Cardiology
Endocrinology
Family Practice
Internal Medicine
Nursing
Nutrition
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Preventive Medicine

INTENDED USERS

Advanced Practice Nurses
Dietitians
Nurses
Physician Assistants
Physicians

GUIDELINE OBJECTIVE(S)

To provide clinicians with clear and accessible guidelines to care for patients with diabetes mellitus

TARGET POPULATION

Children, adolescents, and adults with or at risk of developing diabetes mellitus

INTERVENTIONS AND PRACTICES CONSIDERED

1. Systems issues
    - Health care team meetings to address patient safety
    - Creation of a nonpunitive environment
    - Encourage sharing of error data
    - Respond to medical errors
    - Development of a culture of safety as part of diabetes care coordination
    - Use of clinical algorithms
    - Electronic health record/information sharing system
    - Computerized physician order entry
    - Reduction of variation in practice
2. Patient issues
    - Provision of explicit, clear insulin orders
    - Use of algorithms for insulin therapy
    - Evaluation of patient understanding of self care

- Assessment for coronary heart disease
- Assessment for risk of hypoglycemia
- Participation in evidence-based diabetes education programs (with emphasis on hypoglycemia recognition, prevention and treatment)

MAJOR OUTCOMES CONSIDERED

- Hypoglycemia
- Incidence of medical errors
- Incidence of morbidity, mortality, complications and disability due to medical errors

METHODOLOGY

METHODS USED TO COLLECT/SELECT EVIDENCE

Hand-searches of Published Literature (Primary Sources)
Hand-searches of Published Literature (Secondary Sources)
Searches of Electronic Databases
Searches of Unpublished Data

DESCRIPTION OF METHODS USED TO COLLECT/SELECT THE EVIDENCE

References were obtained by performing a computerized search of the literature using PubMed and other search engines; scanning incoming journals in the medical library; and reviewing references in publications relevant to diabetes including review articles, leading textbooks, and syllabi from national and international meetings.

NUMBER OF SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Not stated

METHODS USED TO ASSESS THE QUALITY AND STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE

Weighting According to a Rating Scheme (Scheme Given)

RATING SCHEME FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE

Levels of Substantiation in Evidence-Based Medicine[a]

Level-of-Evidence Category[b]	Study Design or Information Type	Comments
1	Randomized controlled trials	Well-conducted, well-controlled trials at 1 or more medical centers
	Multicenter trials	Data derived from a substantial number of trials with adequate power; substantial

Level-of-Evidence Category[b]	Study Design or Information Type	Comments
	Large meta-analyses with quality ratings	number of subjects and outcome data Consistent pattern of findings in the population for which the recommendation is made – generalizable results Compelling nonexperimental, clinically obvious evidence (e.g., use of insulin in diabetic ketoacidosis); "all or none" evidence
2	Randomized controlled trials Prospective cohort studies Meta-analyses of cohort studies Case-control studies	Limited number of trials, small number of subjects Well-conducted studies Inconsistent findings or results not representative for the target population
3	Methodologically flawed randomized controlled trials Nonrandomized controlled trials Observational studies Case series or case reports	Trials with 1 or more major or 3 or more minor methodologic flaws Uncontrolled or poorly controlled trials Retrospective or observational data Conflicting data with weight of evidence unable to support a final recommendation
4	Expert consensus Expert opinion based on experience Theory-driven conclusions Unproven claims Experience-based information	Inadequate data for inclusion in level-of-evidence categories 1, 2, or 3; data necessitates an expert panel's synthesis of the literature and a consensus

[a]Adapted from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Protocol for the Standardized Production of Clinical Practice Guidelines.

[b]Level-of-evidence categories 1 through 3 indicate scientific substantiation or proof; level-of-evidence category 4 indicates unproven claims.

METHODS USED TO ANALYZE THE EVIDENCE

Systematic Review

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHODS USED TO ANALYZE THE EVIDENCE

The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) Task force members reviewed selected reports and studies and rated the clinical evidence from these sources.

METHODS USED TO FORMULATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Expert Consensus

DESCRIPTION OF METHODS USED TO FORMULATE THE RECOMMENDATIONS

When possible, clinical recommendations put forth in the clinical practice guideline have been assigned a letter grade (A-D) based on the level of scientific substantiation (see "Rating Scheme for the Strength of the Recommendations"). However, when task force members determined that clinical judgment regarding a recommendation outweighed study findings or a recommendation lacked supporting studies, they assigned the final grade based on their extensive clinical experience and expertise in diabetes management. An A grade is the strongest recommendation, and a D grade is the weakest recommendation. These recommendations include subjective components such as: (a) judgment regarding whether results from a particular study are conclusive; (b) the relative weighing of positive and negative conclusive study results; (c) assignment of evidence rating when certain study methodologies are controversial; (d) the impact of risk-benefit analysis; (e) the impact of cost-effectiveness; (f) assessment of geographical differences in practice standards and availability of certain technologies; (g) assessment of ethnic, racial, and genetic differences in pathophysiology; (h) incorporation of patient preferences; and (i) incorporation of physician preferences.

RATING SCHEME FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation Grades in Evidence-Based Medicine[a]

Grade	Description
A	Homogeneous evidence from multiple well-designed randomized controlled trials with sufficient statistical power Homogeneous evidence from multiple well-designed cohort controlled trials with sufficient statistical power ≥ 1 conclusive level of evidence category 1 publications demonstrating benefit >> outweighs risk
B	Evidence from at least one large well-designed clinical trial, cohort or case-controlled analytic study, or meta-analysis

Grade	Description
	No conclusive level of evidence category 1 publication; ≥ 1 conclusive level of evidence category 2 publications demonstrating benefit >> risk
C	Evidence based on clinical experience, descriptive studies, or expert consensus opinion No conclusive level 1 or 2 publication; ≥ 1 conclusive level of evidence category 3 publications demonstrating benefit >> risk No conclusive risk at all and no conclusive benefit demonstrated by evidence
D	Not rated No conclusive level of evidence category 1, 2, or 3 publication demonstrating benefit >> risk Conclusive level of evidence category 1, 2, or 3 publication demonstrating risk >> benefit

[a]Adapted from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists Protocol for the Standardized Production of Clinical Practice Guidelines.

COST ANALYSIS

Published cost analyses were reviewed.

METHOD OF GUIDELINE VALIDATION

Peer Review

DESCRIPTION OF METHOD OF GUIDELINE VALIDATION

A separate panel composed of American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) members with expertise in diabetes reviewed the compiled report. Final recommendations included in this clinical practice guideline represent a consensus among the task force members and have been approved by reviewers, the AACE Publications and Executive Committees, and the AACE Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The levels of evidence (1–4) and the recommendation grades (A–D) are defined at the end of the "Major Recommendations" field.

Patient Safety In Diabetes Care

Systems Issues

- Medical errors are common and adversely affect important outcomes in diabetes care (***grade A***)

- Most medical errors are not injurious because they are discovered and corrected by the health care team before they cause harm (***grade A***)
- A high level of patient safety is not a predictable outcome of complex medical systems and is usually achievable only with considerable and continuous effort (***grade C***)
- Create a nonpunitive environment to encourage learning from mistakes and involve all members of the health care team who are responsible for the care of the diabetic patient in the clinical setting (***grade B***)
- Schedule regular health care team meetings to address patient safety as a priority and insert a line item into the annual budget to pay for needed changes (***grade B***)
- Encourage voluntary sharing of error data and address them using an analytic method to improve the system of care and to reduce the frequency of injurious medical errors (***grade B***)
- As part of diabetes care coordination, develop *a culture of safety*, a group of health care workers who function as a team to protect the patient from injurious medical errors (***grade B***)
- Use algorithms to address complex medical procedures and provide ample time for relevant staff to learn and practice how to use the algorithms (***grade B***)
- Always balance profitability with safety concerns (***grade A***)
- Implement and use an electronic health record or information sharing system; a well-designed system may significantly reduce the frequency of medical errors (***grade A***)
- Implement and use well-designed computerized physician order entry systems to reduce medication errors (***grade A***)
- Although comorbid conditions, economic conditions, and patient preferences often cause necessary and appropriate variations in care practice, wherever possible, reduce variations in care that are not evidence-based to decrease the occurrence of errors; allow others (peers, allied health professionals, patients, and families of patients) to facilitate best practices. Also, monitoring of desired clinical performance standards becomes easier (***grade A***)

Patient Issues

- Give explicit, clear insulin orders to anticipate each of the common or important situations that patients must confront (***grade A***)
- Use written algorithms for insulin therapy; if possible, they should be typed or printed (***grade*** *A*)
- Provide frequent glucose monitoring according to the medical needs of the patient (***grade A***)
- Routinely recheck patient understanding of basic concepts of self-care at appropriate intervals (***grade A***)
- Assess for coronary heart disease in patients with diabetes mellitus (***grade A***)
- Evaluate all patients for their relative risk of hypoglycemia (***grade A***)
- Use diabetes education programs that are evidence-based and focused on issues of patient safety (***grade C***)
- Encourage all patients who drive motor vehicles, who have high-risk occupations, or whose leisure time involves high-risk activities to participate in an education program with emphasis on hypoglycemia recognition, prevention, and treatment (***grade A***)

Definitions:

Levels of Substantiation in Evidence-Based Medicine[a]

Level-of-Evidence Category[b]	Study Design or Information Type	Comments
1	Randomized controlled trials Multicenter trials Large meta-analyses with quality ratings	Well-conducted, well-controlled trials at 1 or more medical centers Data derived from a substantial number of trials with adequate power; substantial number of subjects and outcome data Consistent pattern of findings in the population for which the recommendation is made – generalizable results Compelling nonexperimental, clinically obvious evidence (e.g., use of insulin in diabetic ketoacidosis); "all or none" evidence
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4	Expert consensus Expert opinion based on experience Theory-driven conclusions Unproven claims	Inadequate data for inclusion in level-of-evidence categories 1, 2, or 3; data necessitates an expert panel's synthesis of the literature and a consensus

Level-of-Evidence Category[b]	Study Design or Information Type	Comments
	Experience-based information	

[b]Level-of-evidence categories 1 through 3 indicate scientific substantiation or proof; level-of-evidence category 4 indicates unproven claims.

Recommendation Grades in Evidence-Based Medicine[a]

Grade	Description
A	Homogeneous evidence from multiple well-designed randomized controlled trials with sufficient statistical power
	Homogeneous evidence from multiple well-designed cohort controlled trials with sufficient statistical power
	$\geq$1 conclusive level of evidence category 1 publications demonstrating benefit >> outweighs risk
B	Evidence from at least one large well-designed clinical trial, cohort or case-controlled analytic study, or meta-analysis
	No conclusive level of evidence category 1 publication; $\geq$1 conclusive level of evidence category 2 publications demonstrating benefit >> risk
C	Evidence based on clinical experience, descriptive studies, or expert consensus opinion
	No conclusive level 1 or 2 publication; $\geq$1 conclusive level of evidence category 3 publications demonstrating benefit >> risk
	No conclusive risk at all and no conclusive benefit demonstrated by evidence
D	Not rated
	No conclusive level of evidence category 1, 2, or 3 publication demonstrating benefit >> risk
	Conclusive level of evidence category 1, 2, or 3 publication demonstrating risk >> benefit

CLINICAL ALGORITHM(S)

None provided

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

TYPE OF EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The type of supporting evidence is identified and graded for each recommendation (see "Major Recommendations").

BENEFITS/HARMS OF IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Intensive treatment of diabetes mellitus and conditions known to be risk factors can significantly decrease the development and/or progression of chronic complications.

POTENTIAL HARMS

Not stated

QUALIFYING STATEMENTS

QUALIFYING STATEMENTS

- Criticism that purely evidence-based clinical practice guidelines do not reflect real life because subjective input is stifled or precluded is addressed to some extent by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) methodology for developing the guidelines. When the task force members judged that subjective factors influenced the grade of a recommendation to an extent that outweighed the available best evidence, this logic was explicitly described in the detailed discussion that follows each topic section's executive summary. Thus, the process of developing evidence-based recommendations and the incorporation of subjective components are transparent to the reader.
- These methods, nevertheless, have the following shortcomings: (a) reliance on some subjective measures, which compromises reproducibility; (b) dependence on the best available evidence, even if only one study is used to formulate a recommendation grade; and (c) dependence on task force primary authors to perform a comprehensive literature search. Multiple levels of review by both AACE-credentialed and non–AACE-credentialed experts from academia and clinical practice backgrounds serve to address these predicted shortcomings.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINE

DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

An implementation strategy was not provided.

INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE (IOM) NATIONAL HEALTHCARE QUALITY REPORT CATEGORIES

IOM CARE NEED

Living with Illness
Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness
Patient-centeredness

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION AND AVAILABILITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCE(S)

AACE Diabetes Mellitus Clinical Practice Guidelines Task Force. AACE diabetes mellitus guidelines. Patient safety in diabetes care. Endocr Pract 2007 May-Jun;13(Suppl 1):63-8. [34 references]

ADAPTATION

Not applicable: The guideline was not adapted from another source.

DATE RELEASED

2000 Jan (revised 2007)

GUIDELINE DEVELOPER(S)

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists - Medical Specialty Society
American College of Endocrinology - Medical Specialty Society

SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE)

GUIDELINE COMMITTEE

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) Diabetes Mellitus Clinical Practice Guidelines Task Force

COMPOSITION OF GROUP THAT AUTHORED THE GUIDELINE

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Dr. Lawrence Blonde reports that he has received grant/research support from Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; AstraZeneca LP; Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; Eli Lilly and Company; MannKind Corporation; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Novartis Corporation; Pfizer Inc.; and sanofi-aventis U.S. He has received speaker and consultant honoraria from Abbott Laboratories; Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company; GlaxoSmithKline; LifeScan, Inc.; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novartis, Novo Nordisk Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; and sanofi-aventis U.S. He has received consultant honoraria from Kos Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and U.S. Surgical. Dr. Blonde has also disclosed that his spouse is a stock shareholder of Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Pfizer Inc., in an account that is not part of their community property.

Dr. Susan S. Braithwaite reports that she does not have any financial relationships with any commercial interests.

Dr. Elise M. Brett reports that her spouse is an employee of Novo Nordisk Inc.

Dr. Rhoda H. Cobin reports that she has received speaker honoraria from GlaxoSmithKline; Pfizer Inc.; sanofi-aventis U.S.; and Novartis and consultant honoraria from Abbott Laboratories.

Dr. Yehuda Handelsman reports that he has received speaker honoraria from Abbott Laboratories; Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; AstraZeneca LP; Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; GlaxoSmithKline; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novartis; and sanofi-aventis U.S. and consultant honoraria from Abbott Laboratories; Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.; Novartis; and sanofi-aventis U.S.

Dr. Richard Hellman reports that he has received speaker honoraria from Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. and Pfizer Inc. and research grants for his role as an independent contractor from Abbott Laboratories; Pfizer Inc.; and Medtronic, Inc.

Dr. Paul S. Jellinger reports that he has received speaker honoraria from Eli Lilly and Company; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novartis; Novo Nordisk Inc.; and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.

Dr. Lois G. Jovanovic reports that she has received research grants for her role as investigator from Eli Lilly and Company; DexCom Inc.; LifeScan, Inc.; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; Roche Pharmaceuticals; sanofi-aventis U.S.; and Sensys Medical, Inc.

Dr. Philip Levy reports that he has received speaker honoraria from Abbott Laboratories; Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; GlaxoSmithKline; Eli Lilly and Company; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Novartis; Pfizer Inc.; and sanofi-aventis U.S. and research grants from Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; MannKind Corporation; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; and sanofi-aventis U.S.

Dr. Jeffrey I. Mechanick reports that he does not have any financial relationships with any commercial interests.

Dr. Helena W. Rodbard reports that she has received consultant honoraria from Ortho-McNeil, Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; sanofi-aventis U.S.; and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.; speaker honoraria from Abbott; GlaxoSmithKline; Merck & Co., Inc.; Novo Nordisk; Pfizer Inc.; and sanofi-aventis U.S. and research support from Biodel, Inc. and sanofi-aventis U. S.

Dr. Farhad Zangeneh reports that he has received speaker honoraria from Eli Lilly and Company; GlaxoSmithKline; Novartis; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Pfizer Inc.; Roche Pharmaceuticals; sanofi-aventis U.S.; and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.

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This is the current release of the guideline.

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GUIDELINE AVAILABILITY

Electronic copies: Available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) Web site](#).

Print copies: Available from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), 1000 Riverside Avenue, Suite 205, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

AVAILABILITY OF COMPANION DOCUMENTS

The following is available:

- American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists protocol for standardized production of clinical practice guidelines. Endocrine Pract 2004 Jul-Aug; 10(4):353-61.

Electronic copies: Available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) Web site](#).

Print copies: Available from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), 1000 Riverside Avenue, Suite 205, Jacksonville, FL 32204.

PATIENT RESOURCES

None available

NGC STATUS

This NGC summary was completed by ECRI on March 1, 2000. The summary was verified by the guideline developer as of March 8, 2000. This summary was updated on April 16, 2002. The information was verified by the guideline developer on November 11, 2002. This summary was updated by ECRI Institute on September 27, 2007. The updated information was verified by the guideline developer on November 12, 2007.

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